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OO RUEHBC RUEHBZ RUEHDE RUEHDH RUEH DU RUEHGI RUEHJO RUEHKUK RUEHMA
RUEHMR RUEHPA RUEHRN RUEHROV RUEHTRO
DE RUEHNJ #0335 2241411
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 121411Z AUG 09
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7157
RUCNFUR/DARFUR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS NDJAMENA 000335

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: EU CHIEF ON CHAD ELECTION PROSPECTS, REVENUE MANAGEMENT
ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) NDJAMENA 294, (B) NDJAMENA 282

11. (SBU) AMBASSADOR NIGRO MET WITH EU COMMISSION CHIEF GILLES
DESESQUELLES AUGUST 11.

12. (SBU) THE KEY POINTS OF THE DISCUSSION WERE:

ON ELECTIONS:

-- DESESQUELLES IS SATISFIED THAT THE NEWLY-NAMED HEAD OF THE
INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTION COMMITTEE (CENI), MR. NGARMADJAL GAMI,
ALTHOUGH WITHOUT TECHNICAL BACKGROUND OR EXPERTISE IN ELECTIONS PER
SE, COULD MAKE A "GOOD CENI PRESIDENT" BECAUSE OF HIS GENERAL
POLITICAL INSTINCTS AND REPUTATION FOR FAIR-DEALING.

-- DESESQUELLES IS ALSO SATISFIED IN GENERAL WITH THE OVERALL MAKEUP
OF THE CENI.

-- DESESQUELLES BELIEVES THAT THE CENI SHOULD SET A TENTATIVE
ELECTION DATE FOR THE LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND WORK
BACKWARDS FROM THERE IN PLANNING FOR AN ELECTORAL CENSUS AND OTHER
ARRANGEMENTS.

-- DESESQUELLES THINKS THAT THE ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD IN
MARCH-APRIL 2010.

-- DESESQUELLES CONFIRMED THAT THE ELECTORAL REFORM COMMITTEE WOULD
CONTINUE TO FUNCTION THROUGH THE 2010 ELECTIONS, COMPLEMENTING THE
WORK OF THE CENI.

-- DESESQUELLES AND AMBASSADOR AGREED TO URGE BOTH THE CENI AND THE
ELECTORAL REFORM COMMITTEE TO HAVE FREQUENT CONTACT WITH EMBASSIES
AS WELL AS CHADIAN NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE CHADIAN PUBLIC.

-- DESESQUELLES AND AMBASSADOR AGREED TO COORDINATE EU ELECTION
EFFORTS WITH U.S. EFFORTS, INCLUDING ON OBERVERS AND MONITORS.

ON PUBLIC REVENUE MANAGEMENT

-- DESESQUELLES SAID THAT HIS MISSION WAS EXPANDING, WITH A "PUBLIC
REVENUE MANAGEMENT OFFICE" ALREADY UP AND RUNNING AND PLANNING FOR A
"POLITICAL OFFICE" ADVANCED.

-- DESESQUELLES AND AMBASSADOR AGREED TO COORDINATE EU AND U.S.
EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE CHAD GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO MANAGE ITS
PUBLIC REVENUES RESPONSIBLY.

COMMENT

13. (SBU) THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS THAT DESESQUELLES WOULD SOON BE REPLACED AS EU MISSION HEAD, BUT HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE WAS ON HIS WAY OUT.

NIGRO